

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 IO-13 USIA-06

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 /051 W

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P 020909Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9825

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUGHES & FITZSIMMONDS, FAS

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, JA

SUBJECT: TBZ - CITRUS FUNGICIDE ISSUE, NEXT STEP

REF: (A) TOKYO 10125 (B) TELECON JULY 22

1. SUMMARY. IN INFORMAL MEETING JULY 29 WITH SEALDSWEET, FAIR-MAX, AMC, JAPAN IMPORTERS MANAGERIAL ASSN. (JIMA) REPRESENTATIVES, ACTG AGATT AND ASSISTANTS, MIIMURA SAID THAT HIS GROUP WOULD MAKE FORMAL SUBMISSION (REF A ITEM 4) OF TBZ MUTAGENECITY REPORT NO LATER THAN AUG 12. EMBASSY REQUESTS GUIDANCE AS TO FUTURE HANDLING. END SUMMARY.

2. NIIMURA REPEATED FAMILIAR "REASONS" RE WHY JIMA HAD NOT PUSHED FORWARD ON TBZ SUBMISSION TO DATE: (A) HIS BELIEF THAT THERE WAS NOT UNANIMITY IN U.S. INDUSTRY RE NEED FOR TBZ; (B) OBSERVATION THAT OPP IS NOT BEING FULLY USED (JIMA JULY ESTIMATES SHOW PERCENTAGE USAGE AS FOLLOWS: LEMONS 81, GRAPEFRUIT 34, ORANGES 50) AND SUBSEQUENT CONCLUSION THAT TBZ IS THEREFORE NOT NECESSARY (HE HAS RECEIVED SAME VIBRATIONS FROM MIN OF HEALTH & WELFARE; (C) HIS LACK OF TIME BECAUSE OF INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER PROBLEMS E.G., BANANAS (HE AND STAFF

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MEMBERS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM WEEK LONG VISIT IN PHILIPPINES).

3. ON OTHER HAND NIIMURA CLAIMED HE FELT HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY TO HANDLE TBZ PROBLEM AND FEELS HE HAS SUPPORT OF JIMA MEMBERSHIP. BUT HE WANTS TO HANDLE THE SITUATION IN THE JAPANESE WAY, I.E., THRU CAREFUL CONSULTATIONS WITH MAF, MHW, INDUSTRY BEFORE CONFRONTING DECISION MAKERS.

4. FYI, JIMA WILL HOLD TOP LEVEL MEETING AUG 3 AND PLANS DISCUSS TBZ, ORANGE LIBERALIZATION AND DUTY REDUCTION AMONG OTHERS. END FYI.

5. WHEN WE PRESSED HIM FOR A SPECIFIC DATE BY WHICH TBZ MUTA-GENECITY REPORT WOULD BE SUBMITTED, NIIMURA FINALLY SAID AUG 12.

6. NOTE: U.S. INDUSTRY REPS PRESENT AGREED AS TO DESIRABILITY OF WORKING WITH JAPANESE IMPORTERS AND RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO WAITING FOR AUG 12 AS SUBMISSION DATE, BUT EXPRESS BELIEF THAT UNNECESSARY DELAY WOULD JEOPARDIZE U.S. POSITION AS IT MIGHT STRENGTHEN SUSPICION U.S. INDUSTRY NOT UNITED.

7. OWING TO JIMA'S RECENT UNCERTAIN TRACK RECORD ON TBZ, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT FORMAL SUBMISSION WILL ACTUALLY BE MADE BY AUG 12.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: (1) PLS INDICATE WHETHER WASHINGTON AGENCIES WANT US TO CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR AUG 12 SUBMISSION DATE BASED ON U.S. INDUSTRY CONSULTATIONS; (2) EMBASSY WILL WANT TO CONSIDER WHAT ACTION WE SHOULD TAKE IN EVENT JIMA DOES NOT SUBMIT REPORT AUG 12.

MANSFIELD

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